

# **Connecting Our Stories**

## **A Protocol for Text-Based Discussion**

### **WNY Young Writers' Studio, 2010**

Before beginning this protocol, please ensure that everyone has a pen, paper or a journal to write in, a copy of this protocol, and the selected article or text.

The group should also select a facilitator who will lead everyone through this task.

#### **1. Brainstorming**

- Recall a time when you received powerful feedback from someone that enabled you to improve your work. Journal about this.
- Then, recall a time when feedback wasn't provided and this resulted in poor performance, frustration, or fear. Journal about this.
- Form a small group and share your stories one at a time.
- As each person speaks, listen silently and take notes about those stories that resonate with you and the aspects of the stories that seem most significant.

#### **2. Clarifying Questions**

- If anyone is confused or requires clarification of any time, they may ask questions individually now.

#### **3. Making Meaning of the Stories**

- **The group will discuss the following questions:**
  - ✓What was most powerful about the stories told?
  - ✓Which details were most compelling?
  - ✓What hunches, connections, and bits of insight about these experiences can we share?
  - ✓What theories can we pose?
  - ✓Other questions, as determined by the group

#### **4. Connecting to Text**

- Each member of the group will read a selected portion of the assigned text, relevant to feedback. The group will work together to determine assignments and chunk the text.
- As individuals read, they will complete the following tasks:
  - ✓ Highlight those areas of the text that connect to or inform the stories that were told.
  - ✓ Identify several promising practices relevant to feedback that are important to share.
  - ✓ Prepare to share their findings with the group.

#### **5. Making Meaning as a Group**

- Beginning with the person who read the first section of the text, group members will share the connections that were made to the text and promising practices identified in a round-robin fashion while others listen quietly and capture notes.
- Once everyone has shared, the group will discuss the following questions:
  - ✓ How does the text validate our current practice?
  - ✓ Which suggested practices do we hope to adopt?
  - ✓ How do the practices shared or suggestions made challenge us?
  - ✓ How might we plan to overcome these challenges?

#### **6. Acting as Critical Friends**

- As teachers and interns engage with writers today, use the form provided to capture evidence of where you see the suggested practices at work.
- Identify areas where suggested practices might be implemented more effectively.
- Prepare to share with us.

## Critical Friendship

<b>Evidence of Effective Feedback Practices at Work:</b>	<b>Moments for Potential Improvement:</b>
<b>Suggested Strategies or Ideas:</b>	